State Youth Council January 10, 2008

Members: Robert DePoe, Jane Lewis, Mike Glenn, Scott Williams, Cecil Robinson, Marty Kelly, Ron

Harrell, Robyn Wright, Marie Christman, Melissa Freigang and Parley Jacobs

Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Staff: Connie Laws, Tami Huntington, Julie Anderson,

Lesnie Foster, Zenaida Martinez, Ann Barnson and Rod Barlow, Jane Broadhead

Excused: Jared Ferguson, Tom Darais, Travis Cook and Norman Johnson

Notes: Tricia Mecham

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Marie introduced new members:

- Robert DePoe, Education Director for Piaute Indian Tribe & Co-Chair of Western Region Youth Council
- Mike Glenn, Director of Housing at the Division of Community & Culture is also involved in the Governor's Homeless Coordinating Council
- Jane Lewis of Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) also works on Transition to Adult Living (TAL)
- Mike Beacco, co-chair of Western Regional Youth Council, DCFS.
- Jared Ferguson, Director of Career and Technology Education (CTE) in Mountainland, Provo School District

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2007 MINUTES

Cecil Robinson moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Melissa Freigang seconded the motion. Approved as written.

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY/NUMERACY GAINS

Connie Laws of DWS presented information from the Basic Education breakouts at the October Council of Councils. She noted, Utah census data tells us over 211,000 adults do not have a high school diploma or GED. There is an initiative to reduce that number. DWS set the basic education initiative in motion because commentary from the employer community indicated many employees and job seekers lack basic academic and workplace skills. She mentioned a useful publication created by the Utah State Office of Education's (USOE's) Career and Technical Education (CTE) division, Pathways. It details the necessary academic preparation for various careers. She passed the publication around the room. Marty Kelly mentioned that it is available on the USOE website at http://www.schools.utah.gov/cte/pathways_publications.html, and she can get copies for anyone interested.

The targeted industry sectors of focus at the Council of Councils are automotive, construction, healthcare and energy. All Regional Councils must work on two high-growth sectors in their region. The Regional Youth Councils will have a role in developing basic education improvement strategies because they fit closely with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth Literacy and Numeracy Gain performance outcome measure. Connie challenged all members of the State Youth Council (SYC) to ensure they are involved in the Regional Councils and, particularly the basic education initiatives. Marty Kelly has issued guidance to Adult Education to get involved. Additional data continues to become available.

Jane Broadhead noted another value of having a strong connection to Regional Councils is that they are comprised 51% of local employers and these members may be "door openers" for the youth we serve.

YOUTH VISION TEAM

Ron Harrell of the Division of Juvenile Justice Service provided a brief on the pilot project. The Youth Vision Team (YVT) went to Dallas and Atlanta to receive instruction from the federal Shared Youth Vision partners and to present information about the pilot. Sixteen states received planning grants and Utah is one of them. The pilot sites are Decker Lake and Mill Creek Youth Centers; secure care facilities for young offenders. Transitional opportunities are key. The heart of the project is development of career-focused education and training for youth throughout their incarceration. Through collaboration among youth-serving agencies, we are working to eliminate barriers, provide opportunities for youth to succeed, and reduce the recidivism rate of young offenders.

There are a variety of perspectives and areas of expertise at the table. One example is YVT adopted the federal testing requirements for adult education and WIA youth as the standard for this project. Assessments conducted in-house during custody provide a head start in exploring vocational opportunities. Another key feature is improved relationships between partners to reduce the chance for youth falling prey to continued unlawful activity. The pilot officially begins July 1, 2008 in both centers. There have been several focus groups at both centers, as well as the core group for the YVT, which meets monthly. There is still much work to be done. Once exposed to the changes initiated by the project, the likelihood of the youth in custody gaining self-confidence, which in turn contributes to a reduction in recidivism, is increased.

Rod Barlow expressed his appreciation for the efforts of those involved and especially his relationship with the Salt Lake County Youth Employment Services (YES) providers. He does have concerns about the job seeking skills and career preparation of target youth. Ron responded that Ansell Casey LifeSkills assessment, which is one of the tools being incorporated, would help caseworkers and partners understand the strengths and weaknesses of participants. He recognizes this will be a critical piece.

Cecil also expressed his appreciation to this effort and Ron's leadership.

Jane said that with the targeted industries at the State and Regional councils, opportunities exist – the timing is right.

OUTCOME AND BUDGET REPORTS

Jane reviewed the reports. The SYC provides oversight of WIA youth service delivery. The three performance outcome measures are:

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1. Placement in Employment, Post-secondary Education or the Military	65.0%	59.1%
2. Attainment of Diploma, GED or Certificate, and	37.0%	31.6%
3. Literacy and Numeracy Gains	24.0%	45.6%

Utah adopted Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's (DOLETA) common measures in July 2006. State and Regional Youth Councils need to work with providers on improvement strategies for outcomes 1 and 2. There is a reporting delay because data for these

measures because youth must complete the program, and then we collect information. The reporting period advances by one quarter each quarter, and is currently 4/1/06 through 3/31/07. Not meeting measures on the annual report two years in a row results in the potential for losing funds. (The annual report cycle is July to June.)

The important budget information includes observing obligations and targets, expenditures and targets, and ensuring statewide expenditures on out-of-school youth are at least 50%. The current details as of 12/17/07 are:

WIA Youth	Total Training	UWORKS	Contracts &	UWORKS	%	%	YTD Training	% Training	%	% Out-of-
By Region	Issued to Regions*	Obligations	Framework Obligations	Obligations *1	Obligated	Obligation Target	Expenses *2	Expended	Expenditure Target	School Youth Expenditures*
Northern	1,494,236	439,453	759,186	1,198,639	80.22%	80%	367,145	24.57%	35%	45.42%
Central	2,352,548	965,609	1,481,960	2,447,569	104.04%	80%	590,208	25.09%	35%	57.31%
Mountainland	946,471	224,805	512,806	737,611	77.93%	80%	223,631	23.63%	35%	68.41%
Eastern	360,016	189,673	772	190,445	52.90%	80%	66,259	18.40%	35%	66.01%
Western	420,682	224,774	30	224,804	53.44%	80%	86,407	20.54%	35%	37.99%
Total	5,573,954	2,044,313	2,754,754	4,799,068	86.10%	80%	1,333,650	23.93%	35%	55.05%
Out-of-School							734,253	55.06%		
In-School							599,396	44.94%		

*Issued through UWORKS (the Internet based case management system used statewide) and includes some regional contracts.

NOTES: Contracts payments: FTT paid through February 1, 2008 FINAL

SLCo paid through January 31, 2007

Mountainland paid through December 31, 2007 (January still pending payment)

Jane mentioned that statewide we are missing the obligation and expenditure targets, but are meeting the out-of-school youth expenditure requirement.

Funding is not adequate to serve all eligible youth, so the enrollment process includes prioritizing high-risk characteristics and enrolling youth based on their service priority score, which regional youth councils set. Regional youth councils review community demographics, assign values to the characteristics and determine minimum points necessary for enrollment. This assures focus on the youth who are most in need of services, and those with whom we may have the greatest impact.

We struggle with how to ensure stability during the 1-year post-program follow-up period and monitor for continued success. Marty suggested putting partner agencies on-site.

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF WIA YOUTH PROVIDERS

The law requires WIA youth service delivery through a competitive bid process. When request for proposals (RFPs) do not result in a qualified contractor, DWS delivers services through local Employment Centers. The RFP cycle is every five years.

^{*1.} Through 3/17/2008 -- UWORKS, Contracts and expended Framework Services.

^{*2.} Expenses include July-February SFY 2008 Cost Allocation and March 1-17, 2008 FINET expenses.

^{*3.} Includes all Training and Direct Charge expenses (includes some but not all staffing expenses and no allocated expenses).

In an effort to effect continuous improvement of the WIA youth program, and to comply with the WIA, DWS monitors youth service delivery each year. The SYC approves WIA youth service delivery annually, based on monitoring results. Monitoring entails a review of 10% of the active cases, or 60 files, whichever is fewer. Providers must meet an 88% compliance rate on reviewed case files and apply the corrections system wide. Providers must correct *all* eligibility and fiscal portions of the case file. Monitors also review fiscal records. Monitoring will be completed by June 30, and action on final approval will occur in the SYC meeting July 10, 2008.

Action: The SYC grants ¹conditional approval of the following providers:

- Central Region, Salt Lake County Youth Employability Services (YES)
- Eastern Region, DWS Employment Centers
- Mountainland Region, Mountainland Consortium of Schools (Monitoring is complete and provider meets required levels.)
- North Region
 - Wasatch North council area, Futures Through Training was on corrective action based on monitoring in program year 2005. Contract terminates 1/31/08, DWS Employment Centers in Ogden and Roy will assume service delivery, and DWS will announce a Request for Proposal to solicit a new provider.
 - o Bear River council area, DWS Employment Centers
- Western Region, DWS Employment Centers

Melissa Freigang made a motion of conditional approval for all providers as outlined, pending completion of monitoring. Cecil Robinson seconded motion, which passed unanimously. Marie will take the action forward to the State Council.

REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATES

Central

Fall started with a retreat for the Central Region Youth Council. They have restructured committees, etc., identified a co-chair, and added members including a youth representative. They are focusing on recruiting from the business sector. Focus is on the entire area, Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. On the Just For Youth website, YES has been assigned to monitor, take referrals and do initial contacting of businesses/employers who want to be involved as "door openers." The goal is to increase the number of youth in apprenticeships. The will be receiving report from Juan Perez, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training Director in Utah.

One of most exciting things to come out of recent initiatives is a pilot project identifying and recruiting "exempted" students, (drop outs). Much work has been done between the Central Region Youth Council, YES, DWS, Utah State Office of Education, Salt Lake City School District and Granite School District. Attorneys agreed on information release/disclosure forms youth and parents sign allowing

¹ The condition for approval is meeting the required compliance rate.

release of contact information to DWS/YES and partner agencies. Partner school districts get signatures on the release form and give youth information packets about the following organizations:

- YES
- DWS
- Salt Lake/Tooele College of Applied Technology
- Salt Lake Skills Center
- Salt Lake City Youth Employment
- Clearfield and Weber Basin Job Corps
- Horizonte and other Adult Education/alternative schools

YES receives lists containing names and contact information of exempted students from the partner school districts. They also receive information about the school last attended and the grade at which the student exited. They contact the youth by mail to inform them of available education and employment services. YES staff make telephone contact with the youth one month after sending the information. They will send a second letter at 6 months after receiving lists from the school districts.

YES will operate the pilot from January through June, the pilot planning committee will evaluate it, and help decide if it is worthwhile to share the process statewide. The partner agencies are very excited about the opportunity to better serve this vulnerable population. Jim Anderson, Principal at Horizonte, and Parley Jacobs, Director of Instructional Services, Granite School District, & Chair of Central Regional Youth Council, were key in getting the project underway.

The project impacts youth who officially withdraw from school, which is a small percentage of youth who otherwise do not complete high school, but it is a start.

The group discussed the <u>Pathway's</u> publication Connie mentioned and the release forms. Members are curious about the content of both. **ACTION**: Marty will provide copies of the release form to send with meeting minutes, (see attached.), and will bring a supply of the publication to the April meeting.

Jane Lewis mentioned Daniel Romero, a Transition to Adult Living (TAL) participant who lives in the Central Region. Fox 13 News broadcast a segment about him in November. He is a successful alumnus of the TAL program, and has been involved with many of the agencies/programs that members of the SYC represent.

Parley mentioned CTE open houses scheduled February 6 in Granite School District and February 7 in Jordan School District. He invited all to attend. **ACTION**: Parley will send brochures to Jane B, once printed, for distribution to SYC members.

Eastern

Tami reported that Uintah Basin Regional Youth Council struggles to fill the program because the local economy is doing so well. Youth with barriers do not qualify due to income, however families cannot afford all necessities because housing is so expensive. They are working mainly with out-of-school youth (80%). Most in secondary education have a good relationship with agencies. They are also working with detention centers to identify youth. Southeast Regional Youth Council is doing the same.

Southeast cases continue to increase. The economy is not as complex. The Blanding office does not have trouble identifying customers. There are currently 20 customers in Blanding, 4 of them are Education and Training Voucher (ETV) youth. (ETV is a product of the Transition to Adult Living initiative.

DWS/WIA delivers ETV funding from DCFS to eligible youth in Utah. The funding is to support post-secondary education.) They are having success with a couple of youth who are doing outstanding. The most significant challenges are the TABE testing and follow-up. In Blanding, high rates of alcoholism and suicide affect many youth.

DWS sponsored a Youth Summit six weeks ago, during which workers received additional training. They have looked at their incentives program and had added an incentive for youth gaining Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs), which is one of the performance outcome requirements. Monitoring should be complete by end of January. They are beginning to plan for leadership development activities.

Mountainland

Zenaida reported on the leadership project done in December. Twenty youth participated in putting together care packages for military wives and cards for active duty service men and women. They are beginning to plan for next year's project. Paul Otto recently brought 18 students from his Job Corps facility to tell their stories - how they became involved in Job Corps and successes. It was very well received by the youth in attendance.

North

Cecil reported for Ogden/Weber. As noted earlier, the FTT contract was cancelled. This has been a difficult period. There is much concern about what will happen with youth currently in the program. The Regional Director committed to operating the program in-house until June 2009. Transition is expected to be "seamless." DWS expect that the change will result in more youth being served. They have also restructured the incentive program for youth.

Scott reported for Bear River. Monitoring is scheduled for end of the month. They anticipate it will be successful. A planning meeting is scheduled next week for the coming year's youth leadership development/good citizenship project. Last year's activity was putting together care kits for overseas military. This included having some veteran guest speakers. They have also updated their incentive plan. They have seen an increase of nearly 30 customers over the past year. Brent Welch, youth staff in the Logan office, recently left DWS for a different job.. He will be sorely missed, he was a tremendous asset.

Western

Robert reported that Western just replaced two youth workers. They are starting 2nd annual Reality Store, in which youth get an opportunity to go through life experiences and role-play. It has been a great experience. Last year 368 students participated in the reality store with 174 volunteers to put it together. One of the events this year will be at the Paiute tribal building in Cedar City. There will be six events planned. In May, a seminar on budgeting will be presented. Leadership project will be in August. Western is now talking with SouthWest Education Academy (alternative school). Monitoring is scheduled for February.